COLLECTORS CORNER NO. 88 JUNE 25, 1976
GEORGE HISHLER

## SPEAKING OF STAMPS

ANNCR: AND NOW, COLLECTOR'S CORNER, THE VOICE OF AMERICA SERIES OF PROGRAMS FOR LISTENERS WHO COLLECT THINGS, WHETHER THEY BE STAMPS OR COINS, SNUFF BOTTLES OR OLD AUTOS, OR EVEN BALLS OF STRING. TODAY, GEORGE HISHLER IS SPEAKING OF STAMPS.

VOICE: THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AND THE CANADA POST OFFICE HAVE JOINTLY ISSUED COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS WITH NEARLY IDENTICAL DESIGNS IN OBSERVANCE OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE STAMPS, EACH FEATURING A LIKENESS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, WERE ISSUED JUNE 1 IN PHILADELPHIA AT INTERPHIL 76, THE SEVENTH U.S. INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION. FRANKLIN HAS THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE FIRST POSTMASTER GENERAL OF BOTH CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE STAMPS DIFFER IN LANGUAGE, DENOMINATION, AND SLIGHTLY IN SIZE. THE DESIGNS FEATURE THE SAME PORTRAIT OF FRANKLIN AGAINST AN ADAPTATION OF AN EARLY NORTH AMERICAN MAP. THE U-S DENOMINATION IS 13 CENTS AND THE CANADIAN IS 10 CENTS.

BOTH STAMPS WERE DESIGNED BY BERNARD REILANDER OF THE STAMP DESIGN DIVISION, CANADA POST OFFICE. HE BASED THE LIKENESS OF FRANKLIN ON A MARBLE PORTRAIT HEAD BY AN ANONYMOUS ITALIAN SCULPTOR, WHO BASED HIS WORK ON A 1777 TERRA COTTA BUST BY JEAN JACQUES CAFFIERI. THE MARBLE BUST BELONGS TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

VOICE: (CONT) IN THE LEFT BACKGROUND IS REILANDER'S INTERPRETATION OF AN ENGRAVED MAP OF NORTH AMERICA PUBLISHED IN 1776 BY R. SAYER AND J. BENNET IN LONDON AND REPRODUCED IN RAND MCNALLY'S CURRENT U-S ROAD ATLAS. PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK, ALBANY, AND BOSTON ARE POSITIONED ON THE MAP, AS WELL AS QUEBEC AND MONTREAL.

IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER OF THE U-S STAMP IN BLUE APPEARS "USA." BELOW THAT, IN TWO LINES OF BLUE IS "BICENTENNIAL 1776-1976" AND, IN THE LOWER LEFT CORNER, IS "13C." THE LETTERING ON THE MAP IS ALSO IN BLUE AS IS THE FRANKLIN PORTRAIT. THE LETTERING ON THE CANADIAN STAMP READS: "CANADA, AND UNITED STATES BICENTENNIAL" IN BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH.

THE FRANKLIN STAMPS WILL BE THE SECOND U.S. - CANADIAN JOINT STAMP ISSUE. STAMPS COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY WERE ISSUED IN MASSENA, NEW YORK, AND OTTAWA, ONTARIO, ON JUNE 26, 1959. THEY WERE IDENTICAL EXCEPT FOR THE CAPTION AND THE DENOMINATION.

THE IMAGE AREA OF BOTH FRANKLIN STAMPS MEASURES 20 BY 36.3 MILLIMETERS. OVERALL DIMENSIONS OF THE STAMPS DIFFER SLIGHTLY, HOWEVER.

THE U.S. STAMPS WILL BE PRINTED BY THE OFFSET AND INTAGLIO PROCESSES IN THREE COLORS. THE OFFSET COLORS ARE BLUE, ORANGE AND BROWN AND A SECOND BLUE WILL BE ADDED BY THE INTAGLIO PRESS. THERE ARE 50 STAMPS PER PANE AND ONE PLATE NUMBER.

ANNCR: YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO COLLECTOR'S CORNER, THE (WEEKLY) VOA PROGRAM FOR LISTENERS WHO COLLECT THINGS... JOIN US AGAIN NEXT _____ FOR ANOTHER LOOK INTO THE COLLECTOR'S CORNER.

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